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4. In September 1952 the North Korean government started a new military conscription program under which all male citizens in certain categories were to be taken into the army by March 1953. The categories were: teachers and students between the ages of 18-27; officials and members of social and occupational organizations between the ages of 18-27 and civilians between the ages of 18-32. All persons who had been discharged from the North Korean army because of wounds or sickness and were still under age 32 were to be screened. Those found fit for military service were to be returned to the army.<sup>3</sup>
5. Since the Spring of 1951, all men in North Korea between the ages of 18-40 have been required to carry a temporary military certificate and a citizenship card. Those employed by occupational organizations received 1 hour of military training before starting each working day. Men receiving this training had to carry a military training card in addition to their other documents. Beginning in early September 1952, after 3 months' training, each man was to be given an examination after which his temporary military certificate would be replaced by a military certificate. Check points where these documents were examined were set up on the main streets of cities. Those whose military certificates did not show proper certification were arrested and investigated.
6. On 1 October 1952 the Kanggye City (N 40-58, E 126-36) Mobilization Board was at BA-979377. The following North Korean army personnel were employed at the board: the chief of the board, a major, aged about 35; the officers' guide, a senior captain, aged about 30; the general affairs director, a first lieutenant, aged 24; and an enlisted men's general affairs clerk. The board had a guard squad that escorted draftees to the Chagang Provincial Military Mobilization Board, maintained various liaison functions with the provincial board, delivered supplies, and performed KP and janitor duties.
7. The responsibilities of the Kanggye City Mobilization Board chief were similar to those of the Chagang Military Mobilization Board chief.<sup>4</sup> The officers' guide was responsible for enforcing all directives passed to the city board, issuing discharge and recall papers to officers, handling personnel matters of all officers employed by the city board, and making recommendations for eligible men to enter military schools. The training guide was responsible for military training of all members of the city board; of students, both men and women, within the jurisdiction of the city board; and of members of the Association for the Protection and Defense of the Fatherland. The enlisted men's guide handled personnel matters of all enlisted men falling under the jurisdiction of the city board, and submitted weekly and monthly reports on the mobilization and discharge of military personnel and supply and other problems involved therein.
8. In October 1952, a North Korean draftee could not directly apply for entrance to an officers' training school.<sup>5</sup> The officers' guide of the local military mobilization board appointed a draftee to a military school after a thorough investigation of his family background, educational level, capabilities, personality, health, age, and, above all, his recognized capacity to carry out the duties of an officer of the North Korean army. The officers' guide relied heavily on the recommendations of the chairman of the village people's committee or the chairman of the Democratic Youth League as to the suitability of the draftee. Actually, in order to qualify, the draftee had to be either a Labor Party member or a fanatical supporter of the Labor Party. If a draftee declined appointment to a military school, his name was dropped from the list. There was no official reproach or punishment, but either the Labor Party or the Democratic Youth League investigated the draftee's psychological and ideological reasons for refusing the appointment.

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Comments

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2. The same source reported previously that it was agreed at a joint Chinese Communist-North Korean-Soviet conference in Antung in late December 1952 that training of recruits then at Antung would be completed within 3 months.
3. For other information on conscription in North Korea
4.  from the same source, for a report on the Chagang Provincial Military Mobilization Board in Kanggye. According to this report, the chief of the Chagang Provincial Military Mobilization Board was responsible for drafting men in Chagang Province as needed, reviewing and issuing discharge certificates and direction of all military mobilization boards in the province.

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